

Outreach Newsletter

What we've been up to!

It's been a busy Summer for us here at SSACN Outreach and with the kids returning to school this month we still have a few more outdoor events up our sleeve before we switch to our indoor winter programme.

With hundreds of kids (and parents) taking part in our fabulous outdoor events all over Scotland and we thought we'd take the opportunity to share with you some of our highlights!

Remember, if you or your organization would like more information about the programme or would like to be involved with SSACN Outreach then contact Samantha at samantha.king@ssacn.org or head over to our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/SSACNOUTREACH

FishSmart Summer Angling Festival

This year's Sharktag weekend was the first to include a full 3 day Outreach element alongside it creating the inaugural **FishSmart Angling Festival** !

Based at Portpatrick community harbour, our Outreach and Shark Project Officers were joined by a group of fabulous volunteers; over 400 hundred people visited our stalls or took part in activities over the Friday and Saturday.



Our FishSmart Summer Angling Festival set up.



A fantastic catch in one of our drop nets – safely returned back to the sea.



Target practice before casting.

With drop netting from the pier, marine themed games, seashore touch tanks and a shark conservation area – there was something for every age group.

And with a rare spell of glorious Scottish sunshine that weekend everyone was in high spirits!

The Sunday saw us move to the beautiful Sands of Luce beach to begin our sea angling taster sessions – aimed at introducing the non-angler to the sport.

Within minutes of setting up the rods we were surrounded by curious kids and other beach goers who all tried their hand at a spot of beach casting!

We were thoroughly impressed and as soon as we heard the kids asking their parents “can we have a fishing rod” we knew our job was done!

Marine Scotland Nursery Sessions

Marine Scotland is a strong supporter of the Outreach Programme, so in return it was decided to run a series of Outreach Sessions for the kids using the crèche at the Victoria Quay facility.

A big challenge - which activities would suit such a young age group and would they even understand what we were talking about?

We were about to be proved wrong....

Thanks to programmes such as “The Octonauts” and “Deadly 60” the kids were FULL of information and facts...with one of the five year olds explaining to our outreach officer how a whale uses echolocation!! The kids thoroughly enjoyed their seashore activities and we even had some budding artists among us!



Guided tuition from a volunteer angler.



And they're off!



Beautiful marine life at our “creation station”



A moon jellyfish by one of our youngsters.

SSACN and Arran COAST Marine Day

A huge thank you to the wonderful Arran COAST for inviting us along to join them at their marine pier day.

Showcasing a history of fishing on the Clyde, the COAST team provided some fantastic information on the changes to the Clyde ecosystem and even had some interesting old photographs of how the sea angling competitions used to be!

SSACN were on hand to provide sea angling taster sessions at Lamlash pier and with the school holiday season in full swing there was no shortage of kids willing to have a go!

Our shark information stand was also present to provide information on our Scottish Shark Tagging Programme and how to get involved in it.

With SSACN's giant marine board game and COAST's super fun beach scavenger hunts it truly was a fantastic day!

Coigach Angling Competition

Our Outreach Officer headed North again to join with The Scottish Wildlife Trust's Living Seas Project Officer for a fun filled afternoon of crabbing at the pier during the local angling competition.

Alas! The weather got the better of the angling competition which was called off.

That didn't stop a band of intrepid participants who joined us at the harbour and enjoyed an afternoon of netting crabs, starfish, juvenile fish and sea squirts.

The icing on the cake though was the sustainable seafood platter our Project Officers were treated to at the Salt Seafood Kitchen - www.saltseafood.com



Some brave youngsters holding the crabs in the seashore touch tank.



A budding young sea angler with her plush prize mackerel.



Sustainable seafood platter.

Upcoming events!

Ullapool Angling Competition – Saturday 20th August.

Thanks to the hard work of all involved last year's event proved very popular.

This year it will be even more so, which demonstrates how sea angling and a diverse marine environment can add to the Scottish tourism experience.

Whilst the boats are out fishing, we will be hosting fishing, crabbing and marine based events in conjunction with The Scottish Wildlife Trust. Supporting the Event, MCS Beachwatch Ullapool & North West will hold a beach clean at Am Pollan park in the afternoon.

Boats are expected back at 5pm for a prize giving ceremony followed by a seafood BBQ at Ullapool Yacht Club.

There'll be a report on our Facebook page.

Clyde Litter Symposium – Saturday 26th November.

Organised by FSC Millport, the Clyde Litter Symposium aims to raise awareness of the issues relating to litter on the Clyde and consider practical ways to tackle them and improve the Clyde Marine Environment.

If you are a local community group or organisation with an interest in the state of the Clyde or are an educator interested in how this issue can be shared with groups of younger people, then please get in touch with FSC Millport.

More events are due to be added to our indoor calendar –

Keep an eye on our Facebook page for upcoming information.



ULLAPOOL FISHING COMPETITION
Ullapool Harbour
Saturday August 20th

Boat owners at sea in day, 5pm weigh in.

Prizes for:
Adult Biggest Fish, Adult Most Species.
Under 18 Biggest Fish, Under 18 Most Species.
Skipper Most Species Combined.
(No heaviest basket!)

Harbour based angling, crabbing & marine activities through the afternoon with Scottish Wildlife Trust and Scottish Sea Angling Conservation Network.

Evening BBQ at Ullapool Yacht Club.
Eat what you've caught!
(or bring something bigger!)

www.facebook.com/ullapoolfishing
www.facebook.com/SSACNOUTREACH
www.facebook.com/LivingSeasScotland

 **Scottish Wildlife Trust** 



Adding to the Scottish tourism experience – visitors from Sweden trying out drop netting.



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